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SUPPLEMENT

SUBJECT Recent Viet Nam Activities

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This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archives of the United States.

ORIGIN

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25X1X6 Two attempts were made on Ho Chi Minh's life as he was returning from Paris, and one later attempt was made in Haiphong. All were made by unidentified groups of disgruntled citizens.

25X1X6 On 28 October a special meeting of the National Assembly was called to discuss the Paris meeting. There was violent dissatisfaction with Ho's report, especially with the agreement to let the French control the composite army, education, and finance (including customs). Ho felt that he had failed to make an honorable pact and submitted his resignation, which was accepted. The Government was then put in the hands of the cabinet and influenced by the newly-organized Socialist Democratic Party composed of business and intellectual figures.

25X1X6 One result of these developments is that the quiescent resistance movement has started again. Recently the condition had quieted down although there were still "incidents" of the "eye for an eye" type. If a native was injured or killed, the French would suffer a similar casualty in a few hours and vice versa. The conduct of the French troops had improved greatly.

25X1X6 Another result of the recent developments is that the Chinese have suddenly acquired a pro-Vietnam attitude. The position of the Chinese in the North has been greatly altered in the past six months. Since the evacuation of their troops, the Chinese have been obviously subservient to the French colonial authorities, from the Chinese Consul-General down to the average merchant. It is reported that the Chinese Consul had instructed his countrymen to comply strictly with the edicts and regulations handed down by the French, regardless of the legality of these restrictions on Chinese commerce. Following are examples of the restrictions. A Chinese merchant who comes to Hanoi to buy goods for export must first deposit in the Hongkong branch of the Banque de l'Indo-Chine an amount of U.S. dollars equivalent to the piastre value of the goods, based on the official exchange rate of seven piastres to one U.S. dollar. On the other hand, the current black market rate is forty piastres to one U.S. dollar. The Chinese must also pay

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import duties to the French at Haiphong despite the post-war agreement to name the port of Haiphong a free port for Chinese trade. The Chinese are also required to pay tariff to the Vietnam Government on goods transported on the Haiphong-Yunnan railway which is still under the complete control of the Vietnamese Government.

Government

25X1X6 The Chinese has invited to Nanking Nguyen Hai Than, the vice-president of the Vietnam Government and Vietnam Kuomintang* leader, who is in Canton in protest against the policies of Ho Chi Minh. His liaison officer, Doctor Dang Van Dung, is still in Canton trying to arrange the smuggling of one million U.S. dollars from Saigon (to Canton) for operation expenses of the resistance movement. Doctor Dang stated that the Chinese want Bao Dai, the former emperor, to come to Canton from Hongkong to join the resistance movement.

*(i.e., the Dai Viet Quoc Dan Dong. There is no information available here which indicates Nguyen Hai Than is vice-president of the Vietnam Government. As far as is known, Dr. Pham Ngoc Thach remains vice-president of the cabinet.)

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